

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01

NEA-10 IO-14 /170 W

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R 130730Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1801

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VN, SW

SUBJECT: PHAM VAN DONG VISIT TO SWEDEN

SUMMARY: NORTH VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG'S STATE VISIT

WAS MOST SUCCESSFUL VISIT OF ANYONE HERE IN MANY YEARS, WITH

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SWedes of all strata turning out for warm welcome and media

GIVING HEAVY COVERAGE. DONG'S HERO IMAGE HERE, LONGTIME MEDIA INDOCTRINATION, AND TIMING AT EASTER-SPRING ALL COMBINED FOR SUCCESS. HOWEVER WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS VISIT WILL CHECK STEADY DIMINUTION OF INTEREST IN VIETNAM. END SUMMARY

1. IN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO A WESTERN COUNTRY, NORTH VIETNAM PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG SCORED A ROUSING SUCCESS DURING APRIL 8-11 VISIT TO SWEDEN. EVEN THE NORMALLY ANTI-HANOI CONSERVATIVE PAPER SVENSKA DAGBLADET REMARKED UPON THE SINCERITY AND SPONTANEOUS WARMTH OF THE RECEPTION FROM ALL STRATA HERE.

2. PRIME MINISTER PALME MET VAN DONG AT AIRPORT AND WAS WITH HIM THROUGHOUT MOST OF TRIP, EVEN CANCELLING TWO DAYS OF HIS EASTER VACATION IN ORDER TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIM. EVENTS INCLUDED A STATE DINNER, MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS, LUNCH WITH THE KING, TOURS OF STOCKHOLM, MEETINGS WITH HANOI SUPPORT GROUPS (PRIMARILY THE PNL GROUPS), A VISIT TO A PULP MILL IN SUNDSVALL, VARIOUS OTHER TOURS AND A PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. PHAM VAN DONG WAS SMILINGLY TACITURN THROUGHOUT MOST OF VISIT. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY HE WAS ADROIT BUT RATHER BLAND, AVOIDING ABRASIVE REPLIES, AND PROJECTED IMAGE OF GENIAL OLD GRANDFATHER. ASKED ABOUT SWEDISH RECOGNITION OF PRG, HE REPLIED IT WAS SWEDEN'S DECISION TO MAKE BUT STRESSED THAT PRG IS ONLY TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM. AT ANOTHER RALLY HE WAS ASKED SAME QUESTION AND HE REFERRED TO "VERY REPRESENTATIVE SWEDISH DELEGATIONS" WHICH HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT FOR THEMSELVES WHO IS IN COMMAND IN SOUTH VIETNAM. INCIDENTALLY, CROWD AT THIS POINT BEGAN CHANTING "RECOGNIZE, RECOGNIZE PRG," WHICH CAUSED PALME TO LOOK MOST UNCOMFORTABLE, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPERS.

4. DISCUSSING INDOCHINA DONG SAID "THE THIRD INDOCHINA WAR HAS NOT BEGUN. THIS IS WAR GOING ON IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, BUT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE REPRESENTED BY HANOI AND PRG WILL NOT PERMIT ANYONE TO SABOTAGE THE VIETNAM AGREEMENT... THE NEW LAOS TREADY AND THE COALITION THERE WILL BE A BETTER GUARANTEE FOR NORTH VIETNAM'S SECURITY THAN EARLIER TREATIES. THEY WERE SABOTAGED BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS...OUR STRUGGLE

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MIRRORS STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE OF THE WORLD AGAINST AGGRESSION, AND IT WILL CONTINUE, HOPEFULLY BY PEACEFUL MEANS. NOW MORE THAN EVER THE NORTH VIETNAMESE STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE CAMBODIANS. THE THREE PEOPLE OF INDOCHINA ARE ONE...WE GROW STRONGER EVERY DAY, WHILE THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT GETS WEAKER.

5. MAIN THEME OF DONG'S VISIT WAS THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO SWEDEN FOR CONSISTENT AND SOLID SUPPORT. TO EMPHASIZE INTEN-

TIONS OF CONTINUING SUPPORT GOS ANNOUNCED DURING VISIT A MAMMOTH NEW SWEDISH AID PROJECT WHICH WILL COST 600 MILLION KRONOR (\$136 MILLION AT CURRENT EXCHANGE). THIS PROJECT, A FOREST INDUSTRY COMPLEX, WILL BE SWEDEN'S BIGGEST AID PROJECT TO DATE. IT WAS ALSO NOTED DURING VISIT THAT NORTH VIETNAM WILL GET 120 MILLION SKR IN AID DURING FY 1974 AND 170 MILLION SKR DURING FY 1975.

6. ALTHOUGH DONG OCCASIONALLY SNIPED AT AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS, PALME AND OTHER GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED MENTIONING EITHER USG OR GVN, AT LEAST DIRECTLY. THEY ALSO AVOIDED POINTING BLAME FOR VIOLATIONS AT PARIS AGREEMENT. AT WELCOMING SPEECH PALME SAID: "IMPORTANT RESULTS WERE REACHED BY PARIS AGREEMENT. BOMBS ARE NO LONGER DROPPED OVER RICE PADDIES OR OVER TOWNS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ALL FOREIGN

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TROOPS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN. NOW IT IS UP TO THE VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES TO FORM THEIR OWN DESTINY. SWEDEN SYMPATHIZES WITH SIX POINT PROPOSAL RECENTLY PRESENTED BY PRG. THESE POINTS COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR A REALIZATION OF POLITICAL CONTENT OF THE TREATY." PALME AVOIDED SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT RECOGNITION

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OF PRG AND DONG SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED CORNERING HIM ON SUBJECT, AT LEAST PUBLICLY. (WE HAVE NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON ANY PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AS VIRTUALLY ALL SWEDISH OFFICIALS HAVE DISAPPEARED FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS.)

7. LEADERS OF OTHER FOUR SWEDISH PARTIES REPRESENTED IN RIKESTAG TOOK NO OFFICIAL PART IN ACTIVITIES, BUT NOT BY DESIGN APPARENTLY. COMMUNIST LEADER HERMANSSON IS OFF ON A TRIP TO HANOI, WHILE CENTER, MODERATE AND LIBERAL LEADERS WERE IN THEIR COUNTRY PLACES VACATIONING--THE EASTER HOLIDAY IS SACROSANCT IN SWEDEN. HOWEVER, IN TYPICAL PLOY, DURING SUNDSVALL TRIP PALME NOTED THEY WERE CLOSE TO FARM OF THORBJORN FALLDIN, LEADER OF OPPOSITION. PALME CALLED FALLDIN, INVITED HIM TO LUNCH WITH DONG. FALLDIN HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT (HAVING NOTED MASSIVE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY ON VISIT). AND THUS OPPOSITION LEADER, WHO ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY NOT ANTI-HANOI HAS SHOWN LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR MASSIVE AID TO NORTH VIETNAM, WAS MANEUVERED INTO MEETING WITH DONG.

8. SWEDISH MEDIA ATTENTION, OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE, WAS VERY HEAVY BEFORE AND DURING VISIT. AS NOTED EVEN SVENSKA DAGBLADET HAD KIND WORDS, THOUGH REMINDING ITS READERS IN SEVERAL EDITORIALS THAT HANOI IS CERTAINLY NOT A DEMOCRACY AND THAT THERE ARE TWO SIDES IN CONTINUED FIGHTING. SD ALSO REPORTED SPEECH OF MODERATE RIKESTAGSMAN ANDER BJORK WHO ATTACKED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE REGIME FOR ITS OPPRESSION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND UNDEMOCRATIC METHODS. THIS WAS ONLY RIPPLE OF OPPOSITION WE NOTED DURING VISIT.

COMMENT: SEVERAL ELEMENTS COMBINED TO PRODUCE WHAT OBSERVERS HAVE CALLED MOST SUCCESSFUL STATE VISIT TO SWEDEN IN MANY YEARS. FOREMOST WAS HERO IMAGE AND PERSONALITY OF DONG WHO HAS BEEN GREATLY CELEBRATED HERE AS KIND OF GEORGE WASHINGTON/

SIMON BOLIVAR FIGURE, SOMEHOW MIXED UP IN SWEDISH MIND WITH HO CHI MIN. SECOND ELEMENT IS LONG-TIME SWEDISH PREOCCUPATION WITH VIETNAM AND STEADY MEDIA DOSAGES OF THE ALMOST ANGELIC CHARACTER OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. ALTHOUGH INTEREST IN VIETNAM HAS WANED CONSIDERABLY AS WE HAVE REPORTED, THIS WAS A SORT OF THROWBACK TO RECENT PAST WHEN SWEDES TURNED OUT BY TENS OF THOUSANDS TO DEMONSTRATE ABOUT VIETNAM. ALSO THIMING, IF DELIBERATE, WAS CLEVER. EASTER IS ONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEW TIMES WHEN SWEDES REMEMBER RELIGION AND IT WAS A KIND OF BEAUTITUDE TO WELCOME THIS SAINTLY, GRANDFATHERLY FIGURE AND BACK IN MUTUAL LOVE AND ACCEPT HIS THANKS FOR SWEDISH GENEROSITY. THE ANOMALIES WERE NOT BROUGHT OUT. BALMY SPRING WEATHER FIRST TWO DAYS ALSO HELPED. DESPITE SUCCESSFUL VISIT WE DO NOT SEE ANY CHECK TO THE STEADY DIMINATION OF INTEREST IN VIETNAM HERE. ALTHOUGH LOVE HANOI SPIRIT REMAINS STRONG, SWEDES ALSO NEED A HATE IMAGE TO MAINTAIN STEADY INTEREST AND USG NO LONGER FULFILLS VILLAIN ROLE DESPITE ACTIVE EFFORTS OF FNL TO KEEP ROLE ALIVE.

HIRABAYASHI

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